

LOK SABHA
SYNOPSIS OF DEBATES
(Proceedings other than Questions & Answers)

Monday, February 10, 2025 / Magha 21, 1946 (Saka)

***MATTERS UNDER RULE 377**

- (1) **SHRI SHASHANK MANI** laid a statement regarding the need to establish universities and technological colleges in Deoria Parliamentary Constituency, Uttar Pradesh.
- (2) **SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY** laid a statement regarding the need to take comprehensive measures to achieve a Tuberculosis free India by 2025.
- (3) **SHRI MUKESHKUMAR CHANDRAKAANT DALAL** laid a statement regarding the need to increase the assistance amount under the National Social Assistance Programme Scheme.
- (4) **SHRI JANARDAN MISHRA** laid a statement regarding the need to establish a Navodaya Vidyalaya or PM Shri School in Mauganj district, Madhya Pradesh.
- (5) **SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT** laid a statement regarding the need to provide PNG Facility in Misrikh Parliamentary Constituency, Uttar Pradesh.
- (6) **SHRI GOPAL JEE THAKUR** laid a statement regarding the need to establish National Institute of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship and Management (NIFTEM) in Darbhanga, Bihar.
- (7) **SHRI ARUN KUMAR SAGAR** laid a statement regarding the need to ensure supply of electricity from Rosa Power Plant to rural areas in Shahjahanpur Parliamentary Constituency, Uttar Pradesh.

* Laid on the Table as directed by the Chair.

- (8) **SHRI RAJU BISTA** laid a statement regarding the need to take comprehensive measures to ensure resolving the issues with regard to Darjeeling Hills, Terai and Dooars regions in West Bengal.
- (9) **SHRI DAMODAR AGRAWAL** laid a statement regarding construction of a Rail Overbridge in Bhilwara City in Rajasthan.
- (10) **SHRIMATI MANJU SHARMA** laid a statement regarding the need to frame a uniform policy for coaching centres with a view to ensuring safety of students.
- (11) **SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB** laid a statement regarding the need to take steps to appoint Chairman Of Mahanadi Water Dispute Tribunal (MWDT) at the earliest.
- (12) **SHRI V. K. SREEKANDAN** laid a statement regarding the need to impress upon the Govt. of Kerala to review the decision to set up a Brewery Project at Elappally in Palakkad, Kerala.
- (13) **DR. BACHHAV SHOBHA DINESH** laid a statement regarding irregularities in the National Board of Examinations in Medical Services.
- (14) **SHRI RAHUL KASWAN** laid a statement regarding the alleged increase in incidents of anti-social activities in Rajasthan.
- (15) **SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH** laid a statement regarding the need to establish PM Vishwkarma Skill Centre in Mannar, Kerala to revive the traditional brass industry of the region.
- (16) **DR. SHIVAJI BANDAPPA KALGE** laid a statement regarding construction of railway line from Latur to Bodhan and Nanded in Maharashtra.
- (17) **SHRI UTKARSH VERMA MADHUR** laid a statement regarding the need to extend Sitapur-Mumbai train upto Mailani Junction in Kheri Parliamentary Constituency, Uttar Pradesh.

- (18) **SHRI NARAYANDAS AHIRWAR** laid a statement regarding the need to enhance the honorarium of Anganwadi workers and improve facilities in Anganwadi Kendras in Uttar Pradesh.
- (19) **SHRI KALIPADA SAREN KHERWAL** laid a statement regarding the need to recognize ‘Saridharam’ and ‘Sarna Dharam’ as separate religions followed by Santhals and other Tribes.
- (20) **SHRI C. N. ANNADURAI** laid a statement regarding the need for doubling of railway line between Villupuram and Katpadi Junction in Tamil Nadu.
- (21) **DR. BYREDDY SHABARI** laid a statement regarding the need to establish an Ayurvedic institute under National AYUSH Mission in Nandyal, Andhra Pradesh.
- (22) **SHRI SUNIL KUMAR** laid a statement regarding the need to restart operation of train Nos. 03219/03220.
- (23) **SHRI BAJRANG MANOHAR SONWANE** laid a statement regarding problems faced by labourers of Beed Parliamentary Constituency migrating to other places in search of employment.
- (24) **SHRI RAJA RAM SINGH** laid a statement regarding the need to constitute an independent judicial Commission to investigate irregularities linked to the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC).
- (25) **SHRI E. T. MOHAMMED BASHEER** laid a statement regarding alleged adverse impact of National Education policy.
- (26) **SHRI UMESHBHAI BABUBHAI PATEL** laid a statement regarding the need to confer Bharat Ratna on Shaheed Bhagat Singh

THE UNION BUDGET 2025-26
GENERAL DISCUSSION-Contd.

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: The Union Budget, 2025 had a higher significance than the other Annual Budgets as this was the full-year Budget of the

NDA's third term. But once again, the NDA's Budget favours only the corporates over the common man. The Government should have presented a Budget that prioritises the needs of the common man. The structural issues plaguing the Indian economy like unemployment, price rise and lack of demand in the economy have to be addressed by the NDA. The combination of shrinking employment opportunities and rising costs of essential goods has left middle-class and lower-income households unable to make ends meet. I register my protest against this Budget, which is unjust, biased and fails to address our Indians' real problem. India's economy is slowing down. The growth was 6.4 per cent in 2024-25, and this year, it is projected at only 6.8 per cent. The Budget does nothing for growth. In January, 2025, about 8 billion Dollars of foreign investments have left India's stock market. The rupee has fallen to a historic low against the US Dollar. The food inflation has risen from 7.5 per cent to 8.4 percent in one year. The middle class is struggling with high prices and very low wages. The so-called tax relief benefits only 2.5 crore people at the most. India has a population of about 140 crore people. Only eight crore people, that is, 5.7 percent people filed income tax returns in 2023-24. These are the direct taxpayers. Out of them, 4.15 crore people earn less than Rs.50,000 a month, and 1.5 crore people earn more than Rs.1 lakh a month. So, they do not qualify for the tax benefit. That leaves only 2.5 crore people who may benefit from this, which is, 1.75 percent of the population. So, for the remaining 98.25 percent of Indians, this Rs.12 lakh relief in income tax is a non-issue. They are the real Indians who have been ignored by this Budget. Reality check shows that with your projected growth, we will not have a growth rate of eight per cent every year for at least the next 10 years. We will not be able to see income growing fast enough to match the inflation. You have cut the MGNREGS funding despite a record low in unemployment. The SC/ST education funds are unchanged, making higher education for them unaffordable. The food prices are increasing. The poor man is suffering. The budget for Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana has been slashed by 35 per cent, affecting affordable housing. Jal Jeevan Mission funding is down to Rs. 67,000 crore, lower than spending in the last two years. Employment generation is the need of the hour, but no major initiatives have been taken for job creation. The railway is very important for us. You have reduced the funding for railway projects from Rs. 34,000 crore to Rs. 32,000 crore. We really need more investment. The Kavach system has to be implemented so that we can avoid head-on collisions in railways where thousands of our Indian lives have been lost. With this Budget, only five per cent of the entire railway network can be covered with a Kavach system.

The Finance Minister has slashed the UDAN scheme Budget from Rs. 800 crore to Rs. 540 crore making air travel more costlier for the common man. We are talking about 'Make in India'. It is never 'Make in India', it is just an 'Assemble in India'. Right now, all we are doing is assembling iPhones and exporting them. The Union Government is giving Performance-Linked Incentive to every iPhone assembled in India while none of them are manufactured. So, basically, a huge subsidy is going on the assembling of iPhones. Another sad thing is that even those assembly lines are imported from China. The trade deficit with China is still high. We need to make sure that we have the facilities. The automobile sector is mostly dependent on imports. We have to become self-reliant. There is unfair treatment for the Southern States. The share of taxes for Tamil Nadu remains stagnant at 4.1 percent against the rest of India, which is getting increased allocation. The Kanyakumari Thiruvananthapuram Industrial Corridor has been ignored again. There is no incentive for IT hubs in Bengaluru, Chennai, and Hyderabad despite the huge contribution to the economy they have made. Last week, the Union Government took away nearly Rs. 2,000 crore meant for Tamil Nadu students and diverted it to other states. Have we ever heard of the Union Government punishing the students? We are very, very clear that we will never accept a three-language policy. The AIIMS in Madurai remains incomplete. Chennai struggles to secure funds for its only Metro project. We are the lawmakers. We pass the Finance Bill, but when it comes to the banking industry, we are called 'Politically Exposed Persons'. No loans are given to us. No credit cards are given to us. This has to change. Why should the lawmakers be penalized? I would say, this Budget only favours the corporates. This Budget is anti-people. This Budget is anti-Tamil Nadu, anti-Kerala, anti-Karnataka and against 98 per cent of the population. And I feel that the Finance Minister should be more positive in making sure that the Budget is entirely for India.

SHRI MANISH TIWARI: For the last ten years, the governance of the NDA-BJP has had just one major thought. That thought was 'demonetization' or 'currency exchange'. Out of the many objectives presented to the public regarding demonetization, not a single objective has been achieved. In the year 2019-20, the Finance Minister brought multiple small budgets one after the other. In those budgets, the Indian capitalists were given huge exemptions in corporate income tax. The income tax rate was reduced to 22% and for many companies, it was reduced to 15%. The Parliament's Estimate Committee has estimated that due to this corporate tax rebate, India's revenue lost 1.84 lakh crore rupees in the first two

years. As a result, for the last five years, the government has been trying to run the country's economy through government capital expenditure. But the unfortunate thing is that the target for capital expenditure last year was only 92% fulfilled. The announcement of income tax relief for taxpayers has been made, and we hope that the economy of India, which has been completely stalled for the past five years, will start moving again. The relief in income tax has been granted, but if the government collects so much money from the market and if consumption does rise, where will the capitalists get the money to invest? Because private investment has already been crowded in. If the government takes all the money from the market, where will the private investors find money? No clarification on this has been provided by the government. Taxpayers have been given a relief of 1.81 lakh crore rupees. I want to ask the government where this money will come from. There has been no clarification on this. In the past ten years, they have saddled India with a debt of 140,91,623.33 crore rupees. Who will repay this debt? In 2013-14, the budget for MNREGA was 33,000 crore rupees, and in 2025-26, it increased to 86,000 crore rupees. I want to ask the government how the budget for MNREGA tripled when the agriculture sector of India was growing at a rate of 5%. This means that the Indian agriculture sector is in a major crisis, forcing people to be willing to work for minimum wages. This clearly shows that the government's data is inaccurate. In conclusion, I would like to say that the common man has been completely crushed in this budget.

SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR: This is not just an annual budget, but a roadmap for a developed India. There will be no income tax up to 12 lakh rupees. The tax rate for income up to 12 lakh rupees has been reduced to zero. India's four growth engines Agriculture, MSMEs, Investment, and Exports have been identified. By 2047, India will be free of poverty. Women will contribute 70% to economic activities in the growth process. A paradigm shift has occurred during the UPA era. Earlier, India was associated with scams, but now under the leadership of the Hon'ble Prime Minister, India has become a capable nation. Hon'ble Prime Minister has introduced the 'Khelo India' initiative. The Government's budget is for national welfare. Hon'ble Prime Minister also introduced GST, and we are now collecting an average of 1.75 lakh crore rupees in taxes every month. You can see the happiness on the faces of millions of middle-class people in the country, as they are contributing significantly to India's development. Hon'ble Prime Minister has uplifted 25 crore people from multidimensional poverty and provided them with

concrete homes. He has pledged to make India poverty-free before 2047 and achieve zero poverty by then. In 2014, there were only 16 IITs; today, we have 23. We had 13 IIMs, and now we have 21. There were 9 triple IITs, now there are 25. There were 7 AIIMS, now there are 24. In 2014, there were 308 medical colleges, now we have 760. There were 740 universities, and now we have 1,200. In 2014, we had 74 airports; now, we have 160. National highways increased from 91,287 kilometers to over 1,50,000 kilometers. Rural roads expanded from 3,23,000 kilometers to 7,60,000 kilometers. Metro rail expanded from 248 kilometers to 1,000 kilometers, making it the second-largest metro network in the world. Our electricity production has grown from 247 gigawatts to 447 gigawatts. India has moved from being the 10th largest economy to becoming the 5th largest in the world. The defence budget in 2014 was 2,03,499 crore rupees; now it has risen to 6,81,210 crore rupees. The budget for road transport was 25,476 crore rupees, which has increased to 2,87,000 crore rupees. The railway budget has increased from 27,000 crore rupees to 2,55,000 crore rupees. The Home Affairs budget has grown from 53,371 crore rupees to 2,33,211 crore rupees. The agriculture budget has increased from 17,395 crore rupees to 1,37,757 crore rupees for farmers. The education budget has increased from 71,000 crore rupees to over 1,28,000 crore rupees. Healthcare spending has grown from 27,000 crore rupees to nearly 99,900 crore rupees. By 2033, India will have five indigenous small modular reactors. Our youth have new ideas, innovations, resolutions, and solutions. Over 1.5 lakh startups have been created. Whether it is the MUDRA scheme, PM Svanidhi scheme, or Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme, banks have done great work. We brought the '4 Rs' and reformed banks. Today, all 12 banks are profitable. Today, even small political parties tell Congress that they do not want their leadership. With 'Aspiration India,' we will take Artificial Intelligence forward. The Prime Minister wants to use AI for India's empowerment. Our country knows how to stay united, and under the leadership of the Prime Minister, it wants to move forward as one. Currently, there is a grand and divine Mahakumbh being organized, which reflects our efforts to enhance India's capabilities. Regarding Bihar, we have promised to set up a Makhana Board. This budget is a force multiplier. It will increase savings, investments, and consumption, and accelerate development.

SHRI LAVU SRIKRISHNA DEVARAYALU: It is a good change to see in eight months. It is refreshing to see there is no external influence in this Session. India is still one of the fastest-growing economies. We have achieved a 4.7 per cent

fiscal deficit. We are aiming at a 4.4 per cent fiscal deficit in the next year or so. Our debt-to-GDP ratio is also 57 per cent of the GDP. Middle-class taxpayers are being given an opportunity not to pay any income tax up to the income of Rs. 12 lakh. PLI Scheme, which has been enhanced from Rs. 9,300 crore to Rs. 19,482 crore. When the PLI Scheme was announced for iPhones, there was only four per cent indigenisation. But now, there is 30 percent indigenisation. It takes time. It is growing and the industries are developing around the iPhone manufacturing. I want to thank the Minister of Finance on behalf of Andhra Pradesh because she has considerably allocated Rs.15,000 crore for the development of Amaravati which is our State capital. An amount of Rs. 11,000 crore has been sanctioned for restructuring of the steel plant at Visakhapatnam. It is the pride of Andhra Pradesh. I also want to thank the Minister of Railways for laying the foundation of the Railway Zone headquarters at Visakhapatnam. NITI Aayog has published a report which describes the fiscal health of Andhra Pradesh until the year 2023. As per that report, the revenue growth of Andhra Pradesh has come down from 17 per cent in the year 2018-19 to 9.8 per cent in 2022-23. Public debt has increased at an average rate of 16.5 per cent during the period of 2018-19 to 2022-23. This has really stagnated all the infrastructure projects in Andhra Pradesh. I hope the Minister of Finance will pay attention to their revival. There is an allocation of Rs.86,000 crore for MGNREGA. I am sure there will be more funds for this in the Supplementary Demands for Grants. I feel happy to say that there is almost a 3.99 per cent increase in allocation for the agriculture sector. The amount being provided under the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi should be indexed with the inflation. Tenant farmers should also be brought into the net of PM Kisan Samman Nidhi. I am sorry to say that the allocation under the Fasal Bima Yojana has come down to Rs. 12,000 crore. It should be increased. There is an underutilization of funds by Ministries of Education, Jal Shakti and Housing. Only six States have been selected for inclusion in the STARS Programme. We request that Andhra Pradesh be included in it because Andhra Pradesh is performing badly because of the last five years of misgovernance in the education system there. The SMEs, which are the growth engines, are facing huge issues concerning high logistics costs, access to technology etc. All they need is the risk capital. There are almost 51 products on which Basic Customs Duty (BCD) has been reduced. We should not be left behind in the fields of AI, robotics, renewable energy and new-age mobility. We should be a technology provider to the world.

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister of Finance for her eighth Budget. We had a lot of expectations from her. But we were clearly disappointed. As per the advance estimates of the GDP, the projection is already declining. Earlier, GDP growth was 8.2 percent, which is 6.4 percent today. The British Pound, Euro and Singapore dollar have strengthened against the US dollar. But the Indian rupee has further depreciated. I compliment the hon. Minister of Finance for the income tax rebate decision. But if she had given some relief in GST too, all the consumers would have benefitted. In the year 2014, the national debt of the country was Rs. 58.6 lakh crore. Now, it is over Rs. 171 lakh crore. The Government owes an explanation. Over 41 per cent of the fund under Jal Jeevan Mission has not been spent. I want to know the reason behind it. RBI has paid a dividend of 2.5 lakh crore rupees to the Government. This is how the fiscal deficit of this Government is being managed. The online retail price of a bottle of Nano Urea is Rs. 92, but the Maharashtra government has bought it for Rs. 220. The cost of a Nano DAP bottle is Rs. 269. But, this Government has bought it for Rs. 590. A cotton storage bag costing Rs. 577 has been bought for Rs. 1200. They should reply to all these things. The Government has removed taxation from 37 items, but cess is added. The whole debt of Maharashtra is going to be Rs.2 lakh crore today. What is the Central Government going to do with the fiscal deficit management of our State? Will the Finance Ministry or the Government do privatisation of IDBI Bank? My only point is, if you want to divest it, bring it in the Parliament and follow the rules. I want to tell this Government that all is not well. The economy is slowing down. Though tax rebate is a welcome step, I am not sure whether it is going to deliver the results the Government is expecting.

SHRI GURMEET SINGH MEET HAYER: In the 1990s, India ranked 17th as per GDP and today it ranks 5th, but during the 1990s, we ranked 161st in terms of Per Capita GDP and today we are at number 159. It is because the income of only a few percent of the people in our country is increasing. Since the last ten years, the income of industrialists has been growing at a rate of 18.3 percent, while the income of the common citizen of the country is growing at the rate of only 1.9 percent. People in the ruling party are saying that tax rebate on income up to Rs. 12 lakh will benefit lakhs of people, but the truth is that very few people will benefit from it. The depreciation of the rupee is a matter of great concern. Today we need to invest in Artificial Intelligence (AI). For this, we need to work on the Right Policy Framework. But a provision of only Rs. 500 crore has been made for AI in the

Budget. It should be increased. Punjab was in dire need of the Pradhan Mantri Dhan-Dhanya Krishi Yojana. A special Budget should be provided to the farmers of Punjab for the diversification of crops. There are lots of agricultural implements industries located in Sangrur. Tractors are exported to other countries from there. GST exemption should be given to these industries so that they can grow further.

SHRI P. V. MIDHUN REDDY: Hon. Finance Minister's decision to give income tax Incentives up to Rs. 12 lakh is a welcome move. Though there is a reduction of Rs. 1 lakh crore of tax revenues, I think it will have a ripple effect on the economy, and it will boost the economy. Whatever the Government has planned to raise through disinvestment, they have achieved only 30 per cent of the target. So, this year, it is going to be very tough to keep up the Capex. We urge the Government to at least borrow more and see that the Capex is not reduced. The previous budgeted expenses for the Jal Jeevan Mission were Rs. 70,692 crore. But only Rs. 22,694 crore is the Revised Estimate. So, there is a reduction of Rs. 47,000 crore. They are taking up the Jal Jeevan Mission ambitiously. But if only Rs. 26,000 crore is being spent, how long will it take for the scheme to be implemented? It is going to take more than 10 years, which is not in our best interest. We want the Government to spend whatever is budgeted, and it can even increase the allocation for the Jal Jeevan Mission. There is another important issue in our State I would like to talk about. The Government has taken action against Sahara in case of collecting funds against the RBI norms. I want to know why Margadarsi is let off. They have collected deposits worth Rs. 2,600 crore against the RBI norms. This is one of the biggest scams. The law should be the same for everybody. We want the Government to take serious action in this case. The Government has announced 75,000 medical seats for the next five years in the Budget. There is one peculiar thing which has happened to Andhra Pradesh. Our Health Minister wrote to the National Medical Commission saying that they do not want the medical seats allotted, and asked them to take these seats back. What is this? This is not fair at all. During COVID-19, we did not have proper medical facilities, and our people who were going to the other States for treatment, were stopped at the check posts. A lot of people in my constituency are coming to me. They are selling their properties to send their children to foreign countries for medical education. On one side, 17 medical colleges which were under construction have been stopped and, on the other side, the people are suffering. This is not at all a good thing. The priorities of the Central Government are healthcare and education. Our State Government is

neglecting this in a big way. I urge that the Finance Minister should step in and make sure that funds are provided for these medical colleges. I want to ask one thing from the Government about Polavaram project. It is a very important issue. Who has asked for reduction of the capacity of Polavaram? They have mentioned that the capacity of Polavaram is going to be reduced. A railway zone has been given to us after 10 years. It has been mentioned in the Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Act. There also, the Waltair Division has been split into two, and we are not getting it completely. This is total injustice to Andhra Pradesh. We demand that the complete Waltair Division should be part of the railway zone given to us. We oppose the privatisation of Vishakhapatnam steel plant. We want a complete statement in this regard. Most of the things in the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act are not happening. We demand the Government not to do injustice to Andhra Pradesh.

SMT. SHAMBHAVI: I would like to express my gratitude to the Hon'ble Minister of Finance that while presenting the Budget in this House, she was wearing a Mithila painting saree gifted by Padmashri Dulari Devi, daughter of Bihar. This has kept the pride of Bihar and the honour of Bihar intact. This Budget will play an important role in building a developed India by the year 2047 and will play a very important role not only in making India developed but also in developing Bihar and giving a new impetus to the development of Bihar. Bihar will always be grateful to the Government which has proactively worked for the development of Bihar. Regional favouritism is being talked about. In the year 2004, Tamil was declared a classical language in lieu of getting the support of the DMK party and a university was also established over there and at that time the people of Bihar had no problem, but today when Bihar is getting more, why is the opposition having so much trouble? The Minister of Finance has given a Budget of Rs.50 lakh crores, out of which Rs.11.21 lakh crores is capital expenditure, which will play an important role in the construction of our country. It is the result of this Budget that despite so many global uncertainties, our country is one of the fastest-growing economies. Farmers are our food providers, farmers are the embodiment of Annapurna Devi. Many such schemes have been inspired by the self-reliant ideology and have been conceptualised to empower the farmers. Pradhan Mantri Dhan Dhanya Krishi Yojana will benefit about 150 crore farmers in 100 districts where the yield is on the lower side. Rural areas will be strengthened under the Rural Prosperity and Resilience Program. For women belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, it would be for the first time ever that 5 lakh

entrepreneurs will be paid Rs 2 crore over five years. Today, institutes like NIFTEM are coming up in Bihar and somewhere down the line, Bihar will be developed as a node of food processing in the Eastern Hub. There shall be expansion of IIT, Patna.

SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE: India is widely considered as one of the best and oldest living civilizations with evidence of quality life and stable economy in the world dating back to at least 8000 BCE. Who will get the credit? The people of the country will get the credit. No single person can claim that because of him, India has been developed. To see whether any Budget in the past few years has fulfilled the expectation of the people, the immediate test is the stock market's response. Sensex and Nifty have maintained a flat benchmark in the stock market for the last 10 days and have not affected the market growth. This proves that the Budget for 2025-26 has neglected the challenge of the economy and the common demands of the people. It has not met the expectation of market participants leaving the common critical issues unresolved. The Union Budget 2025-26 has failed to address several key economic challenges including currency depreciation and declining markets. But it is a bold push towards the complete privatization of the economy. In 2014-15, the Government promoted a composite cap on foreign investment, raising it to 49 per cent, which has now been replaced by 100 per cent. The question is whether the entire population will be covered under insurance and medical treatment insurance facilities at the one-rupee premium cost or not. The GST has not been reduced in the insurance sector. The Budget ignores the immediate challenges of growing unemployment, inflation and inequality. The labour share of GDP dropped from 49 per cent in 2017 to 45.2 per cent in 2023. The data of the 2025-26 Budget clearly shows that interest payment but not repayment of foreign loans, compromises with funding of Centrally sponsored schemes, subsidies, pensions etc. The country's external debt has risen to Rs.60.82 lakh crore in 2025 compared to Rs.39.50 lakh crore in 2019. Furthermore, loans and foreign borrowings are proposed to increase by two per cent, a move towards ridding with a huge debt. By increasing the income limit for being taxed to Rs. 12 lakh, around one crore taxpayers, who were previously required to pay tax, will now pay none. Only 22 per cent of the working class will get this benefit; the rest of them will not get this benefit. The allocation to MGNREGA has been reduced. A lesser allocation in MGNREGA and PM-Kisan scheme indicates stagnation. The allocation for social service has been reduced by 16 per cent; housing funds have been cut by 4.38 per cent; and spending on social welfare and Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

has been reduced by more than three per cent. Most importantly, the Budget allocation for food subsidies has been reduced by four per cent. There is nothing for youth, women and farmers in this Budget. With regard to the issue of unemployment, the economy requires 78 lakh new non-farm jobs every year, but there is no clear roadmap to achieve this. The empowerment of women depends upon economic and financial independence. Unless they are educated, women's empowerment will be an unsuccessful slogan. Tourism is a significant boost to the economy. The Budget has allocated funds for the development of top 50 tourist destinations in partnership with the State Governments through a 'Challenge Mode', which is a positive approach. Hon. Finance Minister has given much benefit to Bihar. We have no objection. But why have you neglected Bengal? No scheme has been introduced for the development of Bengal. Systematically, the Central's financial benefits have been withdrawn for Bengal for one reason or the other without any foundation. In this background, I want to say that Bengal Global Business Summit, 2025 was held last week under the leadership of the hon. Chief minister of Bengal. Top exhibitions were from the Government of Jharkhand, ITC, RPSG Group, Titagarh Rail Systems, ONGC, Jupiter Wagons, Patton International, Ambuja Neotia Group, Kolkata Port Trust, Manipal Hospitals, JIS Group, etc. Coming to the investment and impact, the total investment proposal that has come during the last two days is Rs.4,40,595 crore. We are having a crunch. No financial sanction is given from the Central Government either in MGNREGA or in Awas Yojana or in anything. Everything is being done with the funds of the State Government.

SUSHRI IQRA CHOUDHARY: Article 38 of the Constitution of India defines India as a welfare state and it is the responsibility of the government to bring these articles into reality through the budget and related welfare schemes. The budget is the lifeline through which schemes are run for education, health, drinking water, social security, SC/ST, minorities and the welfare of the poor. Looking at this budget, it feels that it is more a document of making headlines than building the future. Those who are most affected are being left behind, who need the government's support the most. The farmers who are suffering due to rising costs, the youth who are facing unemployment, the women who are struggling with financial constraints and the poor who are burdened with inflation. This Government is proudly marketing the income tax exemption of Rs. 12 lakh but no relief has been given with regard to indirect taxes, the burden of which falls on

everyone, especially the poor and weaker sections of the society. This clearly shows that this is not an inclusive Budget. The high rates of GST have broken the back of the common man. There is a need to reduce taxes on food items, medicines, school books and essential items. This budget has not taken any concrete steps towards removing unemployment. Crores of rupees are being spent in the name of skill development programs, but how many youths got jobs after taking training? The government does not have any data on this either. In urban areas, schools are being closed due to a lack of teachers in government schools and there are no teachers in schools in remote rural areas. The government is saying that digital India and AI will provide education, but only 22% of government schools in UP have computers. In my constituency Kairana, many government schools have shut down due to a lack of teachers. The budget for madrasa education was cut by 57%. Is this 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas'? Similar is the situation in the health sector. There are hospitals, but there are no doctors. In Shamli district, 84 posts of doctors are sanctioned, but only 29 doctors are working. And there is only one gynaecologist. The prices of medicines are going up, but there is no relief for the poor. There is no concrete plan for the employment and security of women. The budget for Beti Bachao, and Beti Padhao was reduced, which clearly shows that it was just sloganeering. The plight of farmers is in front of all of us. In the year 2016, it was said that by 2022, the income of farmers would be doubled, but 2025 came and no concrete guarantee was given on MSP. The sugarcane farmers have not received their dues so far and the sugarcane price has not yet been fixed in Uttar Pradesh. The government says that MGNREGA is the backbone of rural India, but it is very sad that there is no increase on it in the budget. Indian Railways is the lifeline of the people of the country and it runs the economic and social life of the people here. In my constituency Kairana, two demands related to railways have been pending for a long time. The long-standing demand for the doubling of the Delhi-Shamli-Saharanpur railway line and the survey of Panipat-Shamli-Meerut railway line should be included in the budget. Electricity rates are extremely uneven across the country. In Uttar Pradesh, these rates are very high. In the revamped scheme, L.T. line Yojana should be included to provide electricity to every household. Agricultural equipment, manure and DAP should be exempted from GST. Shamli and Muzaffarnagar districts have been declared as NCR districts. But no development work has been done there and no benefit has been received there. Therefore, both districts should be excluded from NCR limits. I want to add a few things from my constituency in my speech. There is also a demand for the upgradation of a trauma centre and district hospital. One

women's degree college should be opened in Shamli and Saharanpur districts. Beautification work on the ghats of the Yamuna river in Kairana should also be added. A textile park should be set up in the Shamli district. We demand that the MPLAD fund should be increased to Rs 25 crore. India needs a budget that prioritises its people, not just its economic headlines. But what we have instead is another missed opportunity that fails the poor, the youth, the farmers, and the women of this country.

***SHRI SUBBARAYAN K.:**

***SHRI NAVASKANI K.:**

SHRI AMRINDER SINGH RAJA WARRING: There was a time when the budget was used to transform the lives of farmers, the poor, labourers and small businessmen of the country. But, nowadays, only a few industrialists are engaged in the making of this Budget. Nowadays, the budget is election-centric. Is it not true that when demonetisation took place in this country, the Governor of the Reserve Bank did not know that it was going to happen in this country today, and even the Finance Minister of the country did not know? It was said that this would bring equality and the gap between rich and poor will be eliminated. However, due to demonetisation, the economy suffered a loss of Rs 2.25 lakh crore. Everybody talks about GDP. GDP growth is 6.5 percent. The hardworking people, farmers and small businessmen of this country work so hard that automatically the GDP growth would have been three to four percent, so what have you done? Your achievement is that of 2.50 percent only. During the time of Dr Manmohan Singh, there was an average GDP growth of 8.5 percent. Sometimes, the GDP went up to ten per cent. Here the prices of fertilizer and steel were counted repeatedly. I would like to point out that during the UPA-II regime, a bag of DAP fertilizer used to cost Rs 450 and today it is costing Rs 1400. Steel used to be available for Rs. 2800, today it is Rs.7000. Diesel used to be Rs 51 a litre, today it is Rs 90 a litre, it used to be Rs 54 a dollar, but today it is Rs 87. The gas cylinder used to be Rs 300, today a gas cylinder costs Rs 1100. We have not seen any evidence that the income of farmers per acre has increased by 30 thousand rupees. For the past year and a half, farmers sitting at the border have been demanding that they should be given a Minimum Support Price (MSP). In 2019, 23.5 lakh people in Punjab benefited from the Kisan Nidhi Yojana.

* Please see Supplement.

However, in 2023, when farmers were at the border, 14 lakh farmers were removed from the Kisan Nidhi Yojana. It was said that their documents were incomplete. If that was the case, how did you benefit 23 lakh people from the scheme earlier? Today, only about 8.5 lakh people in Punjab are benefiting from the Kisan Nidhi Yojana. If 80 crore people are receiving grains from the government, then the person standing outside the ration depot for just 5 kg of grains is poor, and that is why they take the 5 kg. MGNREGA has been running since 2006. It has been 20 years now, and Haryana offers the highest daily wages. The minimum wages are 374 rupees. Today, a daily wage worker does not get 100 days of work, but only 45 days, as per the average calendar. My request is that the number of days under MGNREGA be increased to 200 days. I also request that the daily wage under MGNREGA be increased to 600 rupees. In Ludhiana, there are about 1.5 lakh MSMEs that are on the verge of closure. If the government imposes a 25% steel safeguard import duty, our industries will collapse, and MSMEs will be wiped out. I urge the government to support these industries with new technology. For the first time in 16 years, under FDI, there has been the lowest investment during the period of Amrit Kaal. Ludhiana was included as a smart city. However, a survey was conducted among 75 lakh people in Ludhiana. A vision document was created, which highlighted problems like pollution and traffic. But this budget has nothing for Punjab.

SHRIMATI APARAJITA SARANGI: This budget is the document of the aspirations and dreams of 140 crore countrymen. This Government has handled the economy of India with great deftness during difficult times. We are the fastest growing among the major economies and we are well on our way to becoming a five-trillion economy in the world. I come from Odisha and, at the outset, I must thank the Government for the huge outlay in railway infrastructure. In Odisha, we have seen a lot of activities in the railway sector in terms of more trains, in terms of more routes and in terms of renovation of more railway stations. I also would like to mention here that there has been a boost in the Tribal Affairs Ministry's budget by around Rs. 15,000 crore. It is about Rs. 45,000 crore more and I am sure this increase will translate into a lot of tribal welfare programs in States like Odisha. This particular Budget with an estimated expenditure of around Rs. 50,65,345 crore will be focusing on six major sectors namely urban and rural growth; investment; exports; middle-class relief; innovation and technology; and infrastructure. This Government has put around Rs. 1,00,000 crore into the pockets of middle-class

citizens and it is admirable. The Jal Jeevan Mission, under which about 12 crore tap connections have already been provided, has been extended to 2028, and Rs.67,000 crore has been earmarked in the Budget for it. The Budget announced the PM Dhan-Dhanya Krishi Yojana and this is extremely good for our *annadata*. More focus on fruits and vegetables, and pulses, are the other highlights of the Budget. The gig workers would now be covered under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Aarogya Yojana and they will also be given identity cards. A centre of excellence for artificial intelligence would be set up. Rs.500 crore has been earmarked for artificial intelligence. The Budget has also announced the creation of the National Manufacturing Mission and the National Exports Mission. To my mind, these two initiatives are extremely important because they would lead to manufacturing competitiveness, and there would be global competitiveness of our products. This Government has been focusing on increasing exports of goods from the country. Carefully planned, focus on a couple of sectors, leather and toy sectors, agriculture and marine sectors, textile and handicraft sectors and MSMEs will lead to more jobs, more exports and industrial growth. During the COVID-19 times, the fiscal deficit of the country was 9.2 percent of the GDP, and it has been brought down to an estimated 4.4 per cent of the GDP in this Financial Year 2025-26 Budget. So, a growth of 7 per cent and above is not a mean achievement. A growth of 7 per cent and above has led to two things. One, we have become the fastest-growing economy among the major economies. Number two, we have been able to handle our financial aspect extremely well.

SHRI AMRA RAM: As far as the budget is concerned, this budget is not meant to take even one step towards solving the problems that the farmers, the poor, the youth and the common people of this country are facing. The Government had said that the income of the farmers would be doubled, but the income has not doubled but the input cost has definitely increased manifold. The country cannot be prosperous until 80 percent of the people of the villages are prosperous. We have the highest economic inequality in the world today. The budget of NREGA was Rs 1,15,000 crore 10 years ago, it has now become Rs 68,000 crore. People working in NREGA have not been paid for three years. NREGA guarantees 100 days, but today people don't even get 40 days of work. The poorest people in the village and 90 per cent of them are women, who are not getting any benefit. They talk about women empowerment and 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao', but they have come up with a budget to make those companies rich in the field of medicine, eand ducation. LIC

has been exempted from 100 per cent foreign investment, but these people are working to give public sector undertakings to big domestic and foreign companies. In the year 2014, the Government of India received Rs 3 lakh crore from petroleum products, which till last year has been taxed at Rs 7.5 lakh crore. The tax that has been imposed has been almost equal to the tax collected from the state governments. The common people are suffering from inflation and youth are suffering from unemployment. Indirect taxes are being increased on the general public and assets are being handed over to big companies. Today, there is no guarantee of minimum wage. MSP is not a legal guarantee. Not a single promise made to the common people has been fulfilled in this Budget.

SHRI DURAI VAIKO: Thank you for providing me an opportunity to speak on the Union Budget. This Union Budget has abandoned the key aspect of federalism. We do not have any objection concerning Bihar receiving Rs.11,500 crore for flood control measures. At the same time, why do States like Tamil Nadu and Kerala which are heavily hit by natural disasters year by year not get the necessary financial assistance from the Union Government? The Tamil Nadu Government repeatedly pleaded for Rs.37,906 crore as financial assistance from the Union Government when cyclone Michaung devastated our northern districts and an unprecedented heavy rainfall caused havoc in the southern districts in the year 2023. Despite the Supreme Court's intervention, we got a paltry Rs. 276 crore, not even one per cent of the financial assistance. We are yet to receive Rs. 2,152 crore under the National Disaster Response Fund for cyclone Fengal which devastated our northern districts again last year. The pending funds under the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan scheme have negatively impacted the Tamil Nadu School Education Department, which is not able to pay for the teachers' salaries and maintenance of the Government's schools, nor reimburse the expenses under the Right to Education Act. We are yet to receive Rs. 26,000 crore with respect to the Union Government share of the Chennai Metro Rail Phase-II. Then, Rs. 1,635 crore for the MGNREGA wages in Tamil Nadu have been pending for the past two months. There have been no special announcements of any project for Tamil Nadu. There has also not been any mention of metro rail projects for cities like Madurai, Coimbatore and Trichy. This Government has kept the Cauvery-Vaigai-Gundar linking project on hold. Tamil Nadu contributes nearly 8.8 per cent to the nation's GDP, and it is the third-largest exporting State contributing 10 per cent to the country's total exports. Despite all these things, Tamil Nadu's share in the total divisible pool of Central

taxes, has been reduced to just four per cent. 'Sabka Saath' is already there. But 'Sabka Vikas', sadly is not happening. This Union Budget has been drafted just for the BJP-ruled States. It is not a Budget for the farmers. It is not a Budget for the unemployed.

***DR. T. SUMATHY ALIAS THAMIZHACHI THANGAPANDIAN:**

SHRI TANGELLA UDAY SRINIVAS: The NDA government is not only aware of the challenges faced by the middle-class people but is also actively working to address them. Take, for instance, the recent announcement by our hon. Finance Minister, Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman ji regarding the zero-tax liability for income up to Rs.12 lakh. Out of 7.5 crore taxpayers nearly 6.5 crore people earned below Rs.12 lakh per annum which means over 85 per cent of the taxpayers will now be free from income tax liability. India's economy is a consumption-driven economy where private consumption accounts nearly for 60 per cent of our GDP. India's income tax multiplier is around 1.01. This means that every single rupee saved in taxes does not just stay invalid. In just 10 years, India's capital expenditure has increased from Rs.2 lakh crore to Rs.11 lakh crore. The Union Budget of 2025 has rightfully recognised micro, small, and medium enterprises, and MSMEs. At the same time, the evolving gig economy is receiving attention. The NDA Government eased the burden by extending the Kisan Credit Card, benefiting over 4.5 lakh fishermen. This Budget will increase the credit limit further. Jal Jeevan Mission was launched as a flagship initiative to provide safe drinking water to every rural household. Despite the Centre allocating over Rs.16,000 crore, the previous State Government of Andhra Pradesh managed to draw only Rs.2,000 crore, leaving lakhs of households without access to proper drinking water facilities. The landmark Palle Panduga programme is setting a Guinness World Record for the largest number of Gram Sabhas held in a single day. About 13,326 village meetings were held. 30,000 development projects were launched across Andhra Pradesh. About Rs.4,500 crore were sanctioned for rural roads, water conservation, and MGNREGS projects. India accounts for approximately 40 per cent of the world's cotton cultivation area, with 126.80 lakh hectares dedicated to cotton farming. A decade ago, this stood at around 118 lakh hectares, reflecting steady expansion. The Union Budget has introduced the Cotton Technology Mission to focus on promoting extra-long staple (ELS) cotton, reducing our dependency on imports, and

* Please see Supplement.

ensuring sustainability. India's dependency on foreign shipping has led to significant financial outflows, with Indian companies paying \$85 billion in freight costs in 2019-20, \$75 billion of which went to foreign vessels. To curb this, the budget outlines the establishment of shipbuilding clusters to strengthen the domestic shipbuilding industry. Andhra Pradesh, with its 974 kilometres of coastline and strategic ports, is well-positioned to drive India's shipbuilding ambitions. Kakinada is well on its way to becoming the shipbuilding hub of Andhra Pradesh.

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UTPAL KUMAR SINGH
Secretary General

** Supplement covering the rest of the proceedings is being issued separately.

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LOK SABHA
SUPPLEMENT TO SYNOPSIS OF DEBATES
(Proceedings other than Questions & Answers)

Monday, February 10, 2025 / Magha 21, 1946 (Saka)

THE UNION BUDGET 2025-26
GENERAL DISCUSSION-Contd.

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***SHRI SUBBARAYAN K:** This Budget is not aimed at the welfare of the people. Rather it is a Budget keeping in mind the interests of corporate companies. Labourers and the farmers, who are wealth creators of this country, are very much ignored in this Budget. The Finance Minister should clarify why Tamil Nadu is being ignored. Particularly the Opposition ruled States are completely ignored by this Union Government. The Govt. should have strengthened the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme brought by the UPA Government. During the last 10 years, how many benefits and tax concessions were given to corporate companies? I want all these facts should be released in the form of a 'White Paper' by this Union Government. The Government has shed away all its responsibility from the insurance sector. This is an injustice for the people and the country. The Govt. have to link the rivers flowing in South India in order to make South India fertile. This is a long pending demand. This Government does not have any moral right to rule this country. This Budget is an anti-people Budget; corporate-friendly Budget and FDI-friendly Budget.

***SHRI K. NAVASKANI:** This Budget of the Union Government is ornamental wordplay providing allocation in a partisan manner. They have given importance to the Election-bound States whereas negligence to the Opposition ruled States of the country. That is why this Budget is partial. This Union Budget has not taken care of the long pending demands of Tamil Nadu with regard to its Highway projects, Railway

* * Speeches made by other hon. Members have already in the Synopsis (Main).

* Original in Tamil.

projects, funds for Metro rail projects in Madurai and Coimbatore, funds for Madurai AIIMS, etc. There is no announcement for bringing down the petrol and diesel prices. Fertilizer subsidy, Gas Cylinder subsidy and other subsidies have been reduced. You have increased this burden on the common man and just for name sake you are announcing tax relief. It is also unacceptable as you reduce the funds meant for MGNREGA year after year. I urge that the funds for MGNREGA should be increased. This Government has been reducing the fund allocation meant for minority students time and again. This Government has not implemented any Scheme for the welfare and development of minorities in the country. The Central share has been gradually going down as regards the centrally sponsored schemes of the Government. In order to meet the price escalation, at least Rs 5 lakh should be allocated for the construction of one Unit under PM Awas. You should treat all the States of the country equally, I urge that this Government should engage in constructive politics keeping in mind the importance of our future generation.

***DR. T. SUMATHY ALIAS THAMIZHACHI THANGAPANDIAN:** As a member of this Dravidian race, I am deeply pained to state that the people of Tamil Nadu are ignored in this Union Budget. This Budget is beyond reach for the poor, farmers, transgender people, oppressed and suppressed people, and minorities and most particularly for the people of Tamil Nadu. You have extended with a large heart all the favours only to the States ruled by the BJP and your allies. You have rather shown empty hands to Tamil Nadu. That is why we call this a partisan Budget and a Budget which is ignoring us. This Union Government has been continuously reducing the allocation meant for social welfare schemes in our country. Budget, more than Rs. 1000 crore has been allocated to the promotion of the Hindi language whereas the Tamil language has been provided only a meagre amount of Rs. 84 crores. You should give up divisive politics and religion-based politics and adopt secular politics. This will lead to the prosperity and happiness of people.

SHRI MIAN ALTAF AHMAD: The allocation for MGNREGA has not been increased in the budget. Unemployment is increasing day by day. There is a need to reconsider the GST-related issue. Medical colleges and new AIIMS are being set up, but they lack infrastructure and staff. There is no MRI facility in the medical college located at Anantnag and the building is still not ready. There is a medical college in Rajouri, but it lacks a cath lab and MRI facilities. Cancer

* Original in Tamil.

medicines should be given free of cost or should be completely exempted from customs duties. The universities located in Anantnag and Poonch are short of infrastructure and staff. The allocation should be made to lay railway lines in border districts like Rajouri. The relief package allocated for the people of Pak-occupied Jammu-Kashmir has not been completely disbursed. The budget makes no mention of tourism and the food industry.

***SHRI G. KUMAR NAIK:** The Union Budget is far away from the real problems and agonies of the common people of the country. Unemployment is at a dangerous level impacting social harmony. The Budget has misplaced priorities regarding Railways. A robust railway network across the country is needed. The Government is focusing disproportionately on the showpiece trains such as Vande Bharat and Nammo Bharat ignoring the needs of the underserved areas. Karnataka has one of the lowest railway densities in the country. Just as there is crop insurance for losses due to natural calamities, there must be safeguards against market failures. The mission for Cotton Productivity in this Budget is a welcoming step. Karnataka is the only major State that still lacks an AIIMS. An AIIMS in Raichur should be set up. Education has been reduced to a set of schemes. Education must be brought back on the right path.

SHRI JUGAL KISHORE: Budget 2025-26 has provided assistance of Rs 41 lakh crore for Jammu and Kashmir. This budget has a big gift for women, especially women from Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, and easy loans have been made available for these women setting up employment units. Exemption from income tax to people with an annual income of Rs 12 lakh is the biggest gift for the people of the country. In the field of health, 1.1 lakh medical seats will be added in ten years for medical education and especially 10 thousand additional medical seats will be added in medical colleges next year. A target has been set to increase 75 thousand medical seats in the next five years. With the Pradhan Mantri Dhan-Dhanya Krishi Yojana, the government aims to cover 100 districts with low productivity, the limit of Rs 3 lakh on the KCC loan has been increased to Rs 5 lakh. 36 life-saving medicines for the treatment of cancer and rare diseases and critical illnesses have been exempted from customs duty. The TDS exemption limit for senior citizens has been increased from Rs 50,000 to Rs 1 lakh. Rs 843 crore has been set aside for railway projects in the budget for Jammu and Kashmir. The

* Original in Kannada.

target of developing four major railway stations - Budgam, Jammu Tawi, Katra and Udhampur - as Amrit stations will be achieved with a total amount of Rs 292 crore being given for the said project.

***SHRI RAJABHAU PARAG PRAKASH WAJE:** It is mentioned in the budget that agriculture is a growth engine of our economy. But we have to ensure that the farmers are getting the benefits of welfare schemes. But due to increasing production costs, climate changes and no guarantee of reasonable prices, the farmers have to face problems. There are certain declarations made by the Government in this budget, but we have to take concrete steps for their smooth and speedy implementation. I demand to include Nashik District under the PM Food grains scheme. The Union Government is working towards achieving self-reliance in pulse production, but MSP should be fixed for it. It should also be purchased based on MSP and a system should be developed to ensure it. Prices of fertilizer, seeds and insecticides should be controlled by the government or there should be a special fund to compensate it. The Finance Minister has reduced the income tax burden but GST on pesticides should also be reduced. Similarly, health and medical treatment facilities should also be made available in rural areas. Export duty on onions should be minimized or removed completely. The government is charging 20% export duty on onions currently, which needs to be removed immediately. New irrigation projects should be started by the Government. PM Irrigation scheme should also be implemented effectively. More funds should be sanctioned for farm lakes and irrigation facilities. A new medical hospital should be constructed to provide medical facilities during Kumbh as the facilities there are not up to the mark. The government should come towards to ensure a modern agriculture system in India. It should be price and market-driven for the welfare of farmers. We must work towards ensuring a prosperous life for our farmers. Lastly, more funds should be released for the Nashik Kumbh Mela and the Nashik-Pune Railway line project.

SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR: This is a growth-oriented Budget. Rajgir should also be included in the construction of a Greenfield Airport. This will develop tourism in this area and local people will get employment. The proposal to expand Patna IIT and the construction of a hostel therein and the proposal to establish the Makhana Board in Bihar is a welcome step. One more fertilizer factory

*Original in Marathi.

should be set up in Nalanda. An action plan should be implemented to assist fish farmers of Nalanda and the entire Bihar. A stoppage of Intercity Express should be provided at Rahui Halt. A pair of additional MEMU trains should be started between Islampur and Patna. A coach display system should be installed for passengers in Bihar Sharif and Rajgir. The height of most of the platforms in Nalanda district is very low, it should be raised at the earliest. The posts lying vacant in Railways should also be filled. The MEMU train from Rajgir to Fatuha via Bihar Sharif-Chandi-Rukhai and Daniyawan should be extended up to Patna. A new four-lane should be constructed from Fatuha NH-30A to new NH-431 Daniyawan-Chadi-Harnaut-Sohra up to Barh. A strong Budget has been given for the empowerment of the poor, youth, farmers and women this year.

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Real wages declined in 2014. 80% of India's population suffers from micronutrient deficiency. According to the Economic Survey tabled in the House recently, school retention is 63.8% from Class 1 to 10 and 45.6% from Class 1 to 12 in Higher Secondary. Education-related loans have been reduced to Rs 678 crore this year. Under the Central Sector schemes, only Rs 770 crore was spent out of Rs 2,120 crore allocated in the year 2024. Only a few crore rupees were spent on pre-matric scholarships. Post-matric scholarships have been reduced by 65% this year. Merit-cum-Means scholarship has been reduced from Rs 33 crore to Rs 7 crore. In the year 2023-24, the Qaumi Waqf Board Taraqqiati Scheme and Urban Development Property were given Rs 8 crore out of Rs 17 crore, which has been reduced to Rs 13 crore this year. Till the year 2016, India was the largest exporter of readymade garments, but today those exports have decreased significantly. No export promotion policy was made in RoDTEP, ROSCTL. The Group Insurance Scheme (GIS) was discontinued for the powerloom industry. Infrastructure development of the powerloom industry has not been done. Manufacturing employment growth fell to 11.4% in the year 2022-23. The Economic Survey states that exports will decrease by 9.5 billion. A huge amount of money is lying unclaimed in LIC, EPFO and public sector banks. Why don't we use it? The budget of the Agriculture Department has been reduced by Rs 4,000 crore. The Nifty Metal Index has fallen by 3 percent.

SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN: Instead of mobilizing resources by taxing the rich and the big corporate houses and expanding public investment, the Government has chosen the opposite direction. The Union Budget absolutely

neglected the issue of unemployment and expenditures on food subsidies, agriculture and allied activities, education, rural development, social welfare and urban development are stagnant. Zero income tax on up to Rs. 12 lakh of annual income is a welcome step. It is not a growth-oriented Budget. It is absolutely giving profits, concessions, exemptions and benefits to the Corporate Houses and nothing for the common people at large. The observation that the Indian economy is slowing down is proved to be correct if the Budget proposals are examined. Big propaganda and big PR management are going on. The Budget was to address the unemployment problem. For addressing the unemployment problem, nothing has been done because the proposals are not realistic. The customs tariffs have been drastically reduced and the Agriculture Infrastructure and Development Cess has been incorporated. Allocation to the various Ministries has come down. This Budget is anti-federal, anti-people, pro-rich and pro-corporate.

SHRI PRADAN BARUAH: This Budget provides directional strength to the journey of Amrit Kaal. In this Budget, under the Urban Challenge Fund, provisions have been made for drinking water, sanitation, and redevelopment of infrastructure. The cities of Assam must also be covered under this Scheme. A Center of Excellence for Skilling must be provided to Assam. Along with this, a Center of Excellence in Artificial Intelligence for Education must be provided in Guwahati with the help of IIT Guwahati and other cutting-edge companies. Districts of Assam should also be covered under the Pradhan Mantri Dhan-Dhanya Krishi Yojana. The problem of water shortage should be solved through the River Linking Project by connecting the Subansiri, Gainadi and Dihing rivers of Upper Assam.

SHRI RAMASAHAYAM RAGHURAM REDDY: I oppose the Union Budget 2025-26 as this Budget weakens fiscal federalism, prioritises election-driven announcements over long-term growth, and once again ignores Telangana development needs. Telangana has once again been neglected in the budgetary allocations. Unemployment remains a crisis with youth unemployment significantly higher. The Budget lacks any major employment generation programmes. In 2023-24, India exported 39 billion USD, while imports were at 66 billion USD, which is a negative trade balance. 19,828 MSMEs have been shut down during 2023-24. Also if this Government truly cares for farmers, why is Telangana, one of India's largest agricultural States being ignored in the same? Our request for sanction of 25 lakh houses and 10 lakh houses under the PMAY and PMAY-G programmes

respectively is also ignored. The Budget fails to provide any strategy to boost domestic oilseed production, hurting our farmers. Import of pulses is an all-time high in the last six years. Telangana has been exhibiting a robust economic performance and it constitutes only three per cent of India's population but accounts for five per cent of India's GDP. In the Union Budget, the Telangana State Government sought a significant allocation for the construction of the Regional Ring Road to improve connectivity around Hyderabad. This has not received any funding. Instead of boosting exports, the Budget focuses on import duty reductions that benefit select industries. Financial inclusion remains a challenge and a significant portion of India's rural population lacks access to formal banking services. This Budget is a betrayal of our farmers, our youth, and our industries. It is a Budget that prioritizes short-term election gains over long-term national growth. We demand that the Government reconsider its allocations and give Telangana its rightful share in the national progress.

SHRIMATI JOBA MAJHI: The budget is not farmer-centric. The Government should immediately ensure internet facilities in all blocks of the country. The Closed mines in the tribal-majority area, Singhbhum should be revived for proper and equitable use of natural resources and special budgetary provisions should be made for employment generation through skill development. The Government should include tribal languages in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India. A special package should be approved to speed up the development of Jharkhand. The provisions of the Jal Jeevan Mission should be made flexible so that it can be made successful in all types of geographical areas.

***DR. D. RAVI KUMAR:** I oppose this Budget as it is against the Constitution of India. If we look at the per capita GDP, India ranks at 140th place among the countries of the world. It shows that there is a big disparity based on the economy in our country. This Budget should try to bridge the gap created by this disparity. But this Budget induces economic inequality in our country. If we see the budget allocation for agriculture, there is a reduction of Rs 3900 Crore. The fund allocation as well as incentives provided to MSMEs have been reduced in this Budget. There is a nationwide demand for a caste-based census. Funds allocated to the minorities-particularly the religious minorities have been reduced drastically in this Budget. Particularly, Fellowships and scholarships meant for their education

* Original in Tamil.

are being reduced in number. After this Government came to power, they continued to levy surcharge and cess. Now it has risen to 14 per cent. I wish to say that this is a gross injustice and therefore I strongly oppose this Budget.

SHRI ABHAY KUMAR SINHA: Approximately, 76 percent people of Bihar depend directly or indirectly on agriculture. 48 irrigation schemes are pending in Bihar. According to NCRB data, more than 1,12,000 farmers committed suicide during the last decade. How is the proposal for increasing the KCC loan limit from Rs 3 lakh to Rs 5 lakh likely to be implemented? Farmers have a loan of Rs 32 lakh crore on which compound interest is levied. Until the loan of these farmers is not repaid, they will not be able to get the benefit of KCC. I would like to request the Government to waive off their loan or waive the interest on their loan. Bihar has only one AIIMS for a population of 14-15 crore. There has been a long pending demand from the State Government to set up a medical college in Aurangabad district. Only three ambulances out of the total eight ambulances are working in the district. Post-independence, there are three villages in the Imamganj Legislative Assembly, where no roads and bridges have been constructed so far.

SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH PATEL: The Finance Minister has allocated Rs. 14,925.81 crore for the tribal community in this Budget. There are 11 crore tribal people living in forest and hilly areas. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is building the roads in tribal villages. The work is being carried out to provide tap water connections to these villages under the Jal Jeevan Mission. A scheme has been started to provide loans of up to Rs Two crore to the members of self-help groups and SC/ST women. Our tribal sister, Hon. Draupadi Murmu ji has been appointed the President. This is a very important step in the direction of women's empowerment. In this Budget, a provision of Rs. Eighty thousand crore has been made for the next five years under the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan Yojana. Sixty-five thousand tribal villages would be upgraded by providing them with basic facilities. In this Budget, an initiative has been taken to uplift five crore tribal people. Similarly, an allocation of Rs 7088.60 crore has been made for Eklavya Model Residential Schools and Rs 380.40 crore for Pradhan Mantri Jan Jatiya Vikas Mission in this Budget. Provision has also been made in this Budget for 470 Eklavya Model Residential Schools across the country. 1.25 lakh tribal children are taking advantage of these schools by studying through Eklavya Tribal Schools. Eight tribal districts of Madhya Pradesh have been included under the

Aspirational Districts category. During the last ten years, three new Medical Colleges have also been opened in tribal-dominated areas. Under the special National Mission, five crore people of the tribal community have been given the benefit by paying attention to the health problem related to sickle cell. Our tribal revolutionaries like Bhagwan Birsa Munda, Tantya Mama Bhir, Rani Durgavati, Shankar Shah ji and Raghunath Shah ji have been honoured and Janjatiya Gaurav Divas have been declared in India in the name of Bhagwan Birsa Munda ji. This year we are going to celebrate his 150th birth anniversary. Hundreds of mobile towers have been installed in tribal areas. Gas cylinders have been provided to our tribal sisters under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana.

KUMARI SUDHA R.: This budget is sound and fury signifying nothing. It is a bitter pill, sugar-coated with a populist announcement relating to the enhancement of the personal income tax slab. An asset-making monetization plan makes it clear that more State assets are going to be sold in the name of 'asset monetization' to the crony capitalists close to the BJP and to the Prime Minister. While the legacy of Jawaharlal Nehru Ji and others in the past was to build, protect, prosper and pass on to the next generation the national assets and this Government is identifying such well-entrenched assets and is selling them under the asset monetization programmes History will judge you as the greatest salesperson, hon. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Ji for having sold and for planning to sell national assets. Do not sell India. Agriculture has been given absolutely nothing. The number of rejected claims for crop insurance has tripled if you compare this with the year 2020. The overall claims paid through the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), went down by 48.77 percent in 2021-22. The loss goes to farmers, profits go to the insurance companies. According to the report of the Civil Society Organisation, more than eight crore workers were removed from the MGNREG Scheme during the financial year 2022-2023 and 2023- 2024. The MGNREGA Scheme is a living example of our Prime Minister Modiji's betrayal of rural India. 10,000 new medical seats will be created across the nation but the National Medical Council has mandated that medical colleges must adhere to the ratio of 100 MBBS seats for every ten lakh population in the respective State or Union Territory. The southern States have already exceeded the limit set by NMC. Therefore, these States cannot either open a new medical college or increase student intake in the existing colleges. Is this fair? In India, there is only one Government doctor for every 10,189 people. The Government is showing a partisan approach

towards the States, favouring some and ignoring others.

SHRI RAJKUMAR ROAT: Today, the country's degree-holding educated unemployed youth is being forced to work as daily wage labour. Those who are going to other countries for employment are returning. There is a need to provide an economic package for the tribal communities and the provision of the fifth and sixth schedules in the Constitution needs to be implemented on the ground. More than 15 lakh tribals have been displaced. There is no budget provision to eradicate malnutrition. Within five years, 400 tribals have been killed in police encounters. Without empowering the tribals, Dalits and backwards, we cannot imagine making our country a strong India. 60 percent of the posts of doctors are vacant in PHCs and CHCs located in tribal-dominated areas. Scholarships have not been coming to Rajasthan for two years. The budget has not been increased in MNREGA. The MNREGA wages must be increased to Rs. 600 and the employment of 100 days must be made 200 days. Anganwadi workers and assistants must be awarded the status of a State government employee and their salaries should be regularized. Jal Jeevan Mission and Eklavya model must be implemented on the ground at the earliest.

The discussion was not concluded.

UTPAL KUMAR SINGH
Secretary General

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NOTE: It is the verbatim Debates of the Lok Sabha and not the Synopsis that should be considered authoritative.

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